

~~SECRET~~NPIC/TSSG/ESD/EL-659-68
18 November 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Background and plan related to the telegram sent to ARPA stating that we would like to use their facility for image restoration work.

1. On 14 August 1968 a Task Force Committee was established at the suggestion of [] to investigate certain Digital Image Restoration questions and to report these findings in a Staff Study to be delivered to [] by 15 September 1968. [] Chief/TSSG/APSD was appointed Chairman, [] TSSG/ESD/EL was appointed executive secretary and technical advisor, and [] Chief PSG, [] executive officer PPBS, and [] Chief/IEG/M&SD were selected to serve as Task Force members. The Task Force was charged to review and evaluate the questions and suggestions concerning the Digital Image Restoration project posed in a MFTR report of a west coast trip made, by certain NPIC personnel, during the week of 23-28 June 1968. The Task Force was further charged to treat additional questions and suggestions judged to be worthy of consideration.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

2. Early in the meetings, it became obvious that the suggested delivery deadline would have to be greatly extended. The primary reason for this was that the committee felt that in order to fairly appraise the program, a thorough understanding of it would be absolutely necessary; hence, an extensive and time consuming effort was made to educate the committee. Once this was done, the committee rapidly came to the conclusion that NPIC should become more intimately involved in this very promising program; i.e. start to work on operational material. The "hang-up" came when the committee started exploring the alternatives of how to get intimately involved. In short the committee (especially [] felt that the justification for working on operational imagery was worth some effort and expenditure, but that these reasons would not be sufficient to justify the establishment of an in-house facility. They felt that this could be justified only after a Restoration on operational imagery could be produced which would indicate its usefulness. The problem was that there was no way in which the program could be fairly tested on an operational problem. As a result, and with a feeling of general frustration, the committee was prepared to issue a report stating that nothing be done until some route be found through which the [] program could be tested on operational material.

25X1

25X1

25X1

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

3. Since 2 August 1968, [] has been unofficially communicating with [] at ETELE/AFETR/Patrick AFB, Florida. [] is the contract monitor for ARPA on the part of the [] program which they are co-funding with NPIC. [] learned that [] was in the process of establishing a DIR facility which would be using the [] program and after a visit to their facility, it was mutually agreed they would work together on problems of mutual interest. It was understood by this writer that this relation was to be strictly "sub rosa" and that NPIC operational problems would not be directly tackled. In September, the committee asked [] if he would explore the possibility of using the ARPA facility for demonstrating the feasibility of Image Restoration. [] responded that he thought something could be arranged without too much difficulty, but that there were problems. At that time, his plans indicated that there would be little spare computer time, that there were some difficulties in getting the software into their computer, and that there were some security problems.

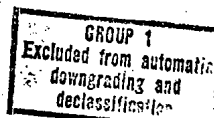
25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1

4. On 23 October, [] ARTS/TSSG, reported that he had been queried by ARPA to state to them whether or not NPIC wanted to use the DIR facility at Patrick AFB. [] further indicated that a reply should be made as soon as possible. This information was relayed to [] and subsequently to the committee, which greeted this news very enthusiastically. It was unanimously agreed that this was the way to go and that steps should be taken to avail ourselves of the ARPA offer. [] therefore telephoned [] and found out that the earlier problems looked solvable by the end of the year and that they were glad to be able to help us. [] then asked [] if he would prepare a detailed memorandum for us which would explicitly detail what they were offering, including computer time, personnel, etc. It was further agreed that once they had received a reply by cable that we wanted to use the facility, they would forward to us the details of the offer which would be discussed in a meeting between the two groups. Should things still look promising at this point, then NPIC should have the problems in security investigated. Once this had been done, NPIC would then be in a position to better decide if indeed this is the route to pursue in order to become more deeply involved in image restoration. On 31 October, [] wrote a note to [] indicating what should be included in the cable. [] then wrote the cable and had it sent to ARPA.

25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1

5. In [] conversations with [] it was made abundantly clear that although a cable would be sent saying that we desired the use of their facility, that this did not in fact commit NPIC to using the facility. It was also stressed that such a commitment could be made only after NPIC had received detailed information about the nature of the offer and had answered certain questions regarding security. It was furthermore understood that if NPIC did use the facility, it would only be to prove an operational capability and that this relationship was not to be interpreted as an indication of NPIC future intentions.

2525X1

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

6. Should the two parties decide to go ahead and use the Patrick facility, and should their facility indeed be ready to run by the end of this year, it is hoped that with the help of [REDACTED] an operational problem can be investigated and hopefully restored.

25X1

7. NPIC is currently awaiting the receipt of the details of the ARPA offer. Once they are received, a meeting will be arranged by [REDACTED] between the appropriate ARPA and NPIC representatives. At this meeting it should be decided whether or not this would provide us with a capability for fairly testing the [REDACTED] work on an operational problem, and if so, to pursue the security investigations. Should these problems prove solvable in a reasonable length of time and for a reasonable cost, then steps should be taken to make the site ready. At this point NPIC should establish a group which would actually decide on the targets for investigation, arrange a time for the use of the facility, perform the restoration work, and report its findings to NPIC. It is suggested that this group be composed of the contract monitors on the program from both ARPA and NPIC and the principle investigator, [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

25X1

8. It is the opinion of this writer that this course of action could be the most favorable one to take in demonstrating the capability of an image restoration facility. In addition the enthusiasm of the committee and the report of its findings will now be far more helpful to the future of the DIR program than it would have been. Had this offer from ARPA not come along, the committee in all probability would have adopted the "Eleanor Roosevelt" philosophy of "time will tell", and recommended that no action be taken until the potential of DIR could be proven using operational imagery. Should NPIC's collaboration with ARPA progress without any delays, an example of restoration results using operational imagery should be forthcoming within a few months. This should irrefutably demonstrate the urgent need for an in-house DIR facility.

25X1

~~SECRET~~